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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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U. S. Serial No.: 08/822,661
Filing Date: 03/24/97
Inventors: Jennings, et al
Title: DIGITAL CERTIFICATE



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DEC -2 1999
TC 2700 MAIL ROOM



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Responsive to Office Action Dated 05/20/1999

4201 SW Vacuna
Portland, OR 97219
Date: November 22, 1999

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Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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AMENDMENT

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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method of creating a digitally stored digital certificate, the
method comprising the steps:
selecting a given character set;
designating from said given character set a protected area border character;
providing said certificate as a sequence of members of said given character set;
defining in said certificate a protected area as members of said given character set located
between one and a next occurrence of said protected area border character;
storing at least one digital component in said protected area;
calculating a digital value as a function of digital content stored in said protected area;
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storing a digital signature in said certificate but outside said protected area, said digital
signature being encrypted and a function of said value.